

Left Half-Built 5 Years

Soviets May Resume China Plant Projects

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MOSCOW, June 13 — A cryptic newspaper announcement today raised the possibility that the Soviet Union may help China finish some of the factories left half-designed or half-built by the pullout of Soviet technicians and blueprints five years ago.

The Communist Party Pravda said an agreement was signed here yesterday to exchange engineers and technicians "to study scientific and technical achievements and production experience in various economic branches," and also to exchange in a friendly way, scientific-technical documentation and plans.

Diplomats said the agreement appeared to mark the

first fruits of the Kremlin's post-Khrushchev efforts to reverse the downward course of economic and state relations between Moscow and Peking, even while ideological and Party ties continue near the formal breaking point.

There was no disposition among informed observers to see the agreement as harbinger of a new Sino-Soviet spring but there was respectful acknowledgment that Mosco had achieved modest improvement in an area which had been blown to smithereens under Khrushchev.

The agreement, a protocol, was signed by the Soviet Chinese Commission on

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Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

Pravda did not note, although the news agency Tass did, that the Commission had not met previously since 1963. As though to suggest normalcy and continuity, Pravda said it was the Commission's 14th session.

It had been reported for several weeks that Chinese delegation was in Moscow to discuss the factories. Pravda today said the Commission met from June 4 to 12.

The signers were highlevel technicians. Minister Sergei Tikhomirov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Union's Supreme Council of the National Economy, and Wu Heng, deputy chairman of China's Scientific Technical Committee.

Observers were intrigued by the protocol's reference to exchange of "documentation and plans. This was taken by some to mean the factory blueprints which the Soviet technicians took back with them in 1960.

The Soviets sought the agreement, it was suggested, to reestablish its reputation as a reliable foreign-aid donor, to appear conciliatory towards China in anticipation of better days, and to see how China's economy is doing.

It was thought that China would have an obvious interest

in finishing the factories. Specialists noted that the agreement said the exchanges would 'study,' not advise or work; this fits Peking's presumed reluctance again to become dependent on Soviet help for its economic progress.

By Soviet count, before 1960 Moscow helped China build 198 industrial projects, supplied 1400 factory blueprints and trained "thousands" of Chinese specialists. By Chinese count, Moscow in 1960 withdrew more than 1300 technicians, scrapped "hundreds" of contracts and halted "many important" deliveries of equipment and materials.

Moscow blamed the 1960 pullout on Peking's unreasonableness and ingratitude. Peking later said it "inflicted incalculable difficulties and losses on China's economy, national defense and scientific research."

The pullout and the recriminations stemming from it composed a stunning chapter in the Sino-Soviet feud apparently the chapter is not yet closed.